and they serve their purpose just because they are exceptions) has a cause in some other phenomenon or created object.* God has so constituted this world, that every effect has not only a primary cause in the will of God, but an instrumental cause in the substances which God has created and placed in the same mundane system. Now, all this is in admirable adaptation to the nature of man, who attains to knowledge and power by means of the circumstance, that all things are happening according to an order which he can observe, and of which he can take advantage in all his operations.

The adaptation of material nature to man's constitution is thus seen, first, in the circumstance that every event has a cause; and, secondly, in the circumstance that it has a natural cause. But there is a third class of adaptations which strike the mind still more impressively. We refer to those exhibited by the general laws or results which come under our notice everywhere, and which are the production, as we have seen, of causes ingeniously adjusted to each other. The agents of nature are so arranged into a system, or rather a system of systems, that events fall out in an orderly manner. The seasons roll on, for instance, and with them their several characteristics—the bud and promise of spring, the full-blown beauty of summer, and the fruitful riches of autumn, all terminating in the gloomy night of winter, in which nature rests and prepares for a new exertion—and this, not because the phenomena proceed from one isolated cause, but because a vast variety of independent agents are made to conspire for the production of one end. These general laws are the grand means of enabling tifl to anticipate the future, and to take steps for the accomplishment of our purposes.

Had there been no common points of resemblance between

the innumerable objects met with in nature, man must have continued in a state of helpless ignorance. He would have felt in much the same way as when carried into a large* wareroom

* The peculiarity of a miracle w, that it IIHH not a eause in tin* natural powern operating in the (JOHIUOH. Though not fulling in with th<i " uniformity of nnturo,'* --which In by no meant* an ultimate principle, or a prineipU! without exception, (there is, c.//., the- creation of new BpecieH of plants and nnimalft an revealed by geology).—it is by no inean,s ineonHiMtent with what is truljP the ultimate and intuitive principle, that " wry effect hatt a caime :" for it lum an adequate in the power of (tad